

support the Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams (WMD-CSTs).

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include an assessment of the following:

(1) The need for new technologies to support the Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams.

(2) The appropriate role of the Department of Defense laboratories, Department of Energy laboratories, and other sources of expertise within the Federal Government in developing or adapting new technologies to support Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams.

(3) The advisability, in light of the matters assessed under paragraphs (1) and (2), of establishing a center within the Federal Government to support Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams, including the appropriate role, if any, for such a center.

REID AMENDMENT NO. 3624

Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill, S. 2549, *supra*; as follows:

On page 546, after line 13, add the following:

SEC. 2882. ACTIVITIES RELATING TO THE GREENBELT AT FALLON NAVAL AIR STATION, NEVADA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Navy shall, in consultation with the Secretary of the Army acting through the Chief of Engineers, carry out appropriate activities after examination of the potential environmental and flight safety ramifications for irrigation that has been eliminated, or will be eliminated, for the greenbelt at Fallon Naval Air Station, Nevada. Any activities carried out under the preceding sentence shall be consistent with aircrew safety at Fallon Naval Air Station.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is hereby authorized to be appropriated for operation and maintenance for the Navy such sums as may be necessary to carry out the activities required by subsection (a).

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

COCHRAN (AND OTHERS) AMENDMENT NO. 3625

Mr. COCHRAN (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. FRIST) proposed an amendment to the bill (H.R. 4577) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 27 before the colon on line 4 insert the following: “, and of which \$25,000,000 shall be made available through such Centers for the establishment of partnerships between the Federal Government and academic institutions and State and local public health departments to carry out pilot programs for antimicrobial resistance detection, surveillance, education and prevention and to conduct research on resistance mechanisms and new or more effective antimicrobial compounds.”

REID (AND BOXER) AMENDMENT NO. 3626

Mr. REID (for himself and Mrs. BOXER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by them to the bill, H.R. 4577, *supra*; as follows:

On page 54, between lines 10 and 11, insert the following:

SEC. . (a) IN GENERAL.—There is appropriated \$10,000,000 that may be used by the Director of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health to—

(1) establish and maintain a national database on existing needleless systems and sharps with engineered sharps injury protections;

(2) develop a set of evaluation criteria for use by employers, employees, and other persons when they are evaluating and selecting needleless systems and sharps with engineered sharps injury protections;

(3) develop a model training curriculum to train employers, employees, and other persons on the process of evaluating needleless systems and sharps with engineered sharps injury protections and to the extent feasible to provide technical assistance to persons who request such assistance; and

(4) establish a national system to collect comprehensive data on needlestick injuries to health care workers, including data on mechanisms to analyze and evaluate prevention interventions in relation to needlestick injury occurrence.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) EMPLOYER.—The term “employer” means each employer having an employee with occupational exposure to human blood or other material potentially containing bloodborne pathogens.

(2) ENGINEERED SHARPS INJURY PROTECTIONS.—The term “engineered sharps injury protections” means—

(A) a physical attribute built into a needle device used for withdrawing body fluids, accessing a vein or artery, or administering medications or other fluids, that effectively reduces the risk of an exposure incident by a mechanism such as barrier creation, blunting, encapsulation, withdrawal, retraction, destruction, or other effective mechanisms; or

(B) a physical attribute built into any other type of needle device, or into a non-needle sharp, which effectively reduces the risk of an exposure incident.

(3) NEEDLELESS SYSTEM.—The term “needleless system” means a device that does not use needles for—

(A) the withdrawal of body fluids after initial venous or arterial access is established;

(B) the administration of medication or fluids; and

(C) any other procedure involving the potential for an exposure incident.

(4) SHARP.—The term “sharp” means any object used or encountered in a health care setting that can be reasonably anticipated to penetrate the skin or any other part of the body, and to result in an exposure incident, including, but not limited to, needle devices, scalpels, lancets, broken glass, broken capillary tubes, exposed ends of dental wires and dental knives, drills, and burs.

(5) SHARPS INJURY.—The term “sharps injury” means any injury caused by a sharp, including cuts, abrasions, or needlesticks.

(c) OFFSET.—Amounts made available under this Act for the travel, consulting, and printing services for the Department of Labor, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Education shall be reduced on a pro rata basis by \$10,000,000.

HUTCHINSON AMENDMENT NO. 3627

Mr. HUTCHINSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill, H.R. 4577, *supra*; as follows:

On page 77, line 14, insert before the period the following: “: *Provided further*, That of the

amount made available under this heading, \$10,721,000 shall be transferred to the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out the Social Services Block Grant program under title XX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397 et seq.)”.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that an oversight hearing has been scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing will take place on Thursday, July 13 at 9:30 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony on Gasoline Supply Problems: Are deliverability, transportation, and refining/blending resources adequate to supply America at a reasonable price?

For further information, please call Dan Kish at 202-224-8276 or Jo Meuse at (202) 224-4756.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on Aging be authorized to meet today, June 26, 2000, from 1:30 p.m.-5 p.m., in Dirksen 628 for the purpose of conducting a hearing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that Ryan Howell from my staff be accorded floor privileges during consideration of the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the privilege of the floor be granted to David Bowen of my office during the pendency of the Labor-HHS appropriations bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMOVAL OF INJUNCTION OF SECRECY—TREATY NO. 106-33

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the injunction of secrecy be removed from the following treaty transmitted to the Senate on June 26, 2000, by the President of the United States: Investment Treaty with Nicaragua (Treaty Document No. 106-33).

Further, I ask unanimous consent that the treaty be considered as having been read the first time, that it be referred with accompanying papers to the Committee on Foreign Relations

and ordered to be printed, and that the President's message be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The message of the President is as follows:

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Treaty Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Nicaragua Concerning the Encouragement and Reciprocal Protection of Investment, with Annex and Protocol, signed at Denver on July 1, 1995. I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to this Treaty.

The bilateral investment treaty (BIT) with Nicaragua is the fifth such treaty signed between the United States and a country of Central or South America. The Treaty will protect U.S. investment and assist Nicaragua in its efforts to develop its economy by creating conditions more favorable for U.S. private investment and thereby strengthening the development of its private sector.

The Treaty is fully consistent with U.S. policy toward international and domestic investment. A specific tenet of U.S. policy, reflected in this Treaty, is that U.S. investment abroad and foreign investment in the United States should receive national treatment. Under this Treaty, the Parties also agree to customary international law standards for expropriation. The Treaty includes detailed provisions regarding the computation and payment of prompt, adequate, and effective compensation for expropriation; free transfer of funds related to investments; freedom of investments from specified performance requirements; fair, equitable, and most-favored-nation treatment; and the investor's freedom to choose to resolve disputes with the host government through international arbitration.

I recommend that the Senate consider this Treaty as soon as possible, and give its advice and consent to ratification of the Treaty, with Annex and Protocol, at an early date.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 26, 2000.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 27,
2000

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 27. I further ask unanimous consent that on Tuesday, immediately following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then resume consider-

ation of the Cochran amendment No. 3625 to the Labor-Health and Human Services appropriations bill as under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, further, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess from the hour of 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for the weekly policy conferences to meet.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that following the disposition of the pending McCain amendment, Senator REID be recognized in order to call up amendment No. 3526.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. SPECTER. For the information of all Senators, on Tuesday the Senate will resume consideration of the Labor-HHS-Education bill at 9:30 a.m. Under the order, there will be closing remarks on the Cochran amendment regarding pilot programs for antimicrobial resistance monitoring and prevention with a vote to occur at approximately 9:45. Following the vote, the Senate will continue debate on amendments as they are offered. Senators may anticipate rollcall votes throughout the day.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order following the remarks of Senator KENNEDY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SPECTER. I thank the Chair and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I understand we are in morning business; is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, is there a time limitation in morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time limitation is 10 minutes.

Mr. KENNEDY. I ask unanimous consent to be able to proceed for 20 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, as I understand it, when we set aside the underlying legislation, before the Senate was the Cochran antimicrobial resistance amendment; am I correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That's correct.

ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I commend my friend from Mississippi, Senator COCHRAN, and also Senator FRIST, for the introduction of the amendment. I welcome the opportunity to join with them in the hope that the Senate will accept that amendment because this amendment is focused on one of the very significant and important public health challenges that we face as a Nation, and that is antimicrobial resistance.

Microbes resistant to antibiotics are a major health threat. The World Health Organization reports that antibiotic-resistant infections acquired in hospitals kill over 14,000 people in the United States every year—that's almost two persons every hour, every day, every year. Unless we take action, drug-resistant infectious diseases will become even more widespread in the United States and kill even larger numbers of patients.

Infections resistant to antibiotics are extremely expensive to treat. It is a hundred times more expensive to treat a patient with drug-resistant TB than to treat a patient with drug-sensitive TB. The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases has estimated that the total cost of drug-resistant infections in this country is \$4 billion a year—and this cost will rise as resistant microbes become more common.

The amendment takes an important step to address this health crisis by giving the nation more tools to win the battle against antimicrobial resistance.

Overuse of existing antibiotics contributes heavily to the problem of antimicrobial resistance. Patients often demand antibiotics and doctors often prescribe them for conditions in which they are clearly ineffective. We need to educate patients and medical professionals in the more appropriate use of antibiotics.

The nation's public health agencies are under-equipped to monitor and combat resistant infections. Many public health agencies lack even such basic equipment as a fax machine, and cannot even conduct simple laboratory tests to diagnose resistant infections. We need to strengthen the capacity of public health agencies to diagnose, monitor, and deal effectively with outbreaks of resistant infections.

Many patients acquire resistant infections in hospitals. Children, the elderly and persons with reduced immune systems are particularly at risk. We can do more to prevent the spread of resistant infections by strengthening infectious disease control programs in hospitals and clinics.